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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s)

Alexander SAGEL et al.

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October 9, 2001

For

WEAR-RESISTANT LAYER

Examiner

Jennifer C. McNeil

Art Unit

1775

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Richard L. May

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of May 9, 2003, kindly amend the above-captioned application as indicated on the following pages:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.